

# **Nellie M. Coats collection**

## **S269**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

July 22, 2014

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Books and Manuscripts  
140 North Senate Avenue  
Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204  
317-232-3671

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Rare Books and Manuscripts
<b>Title</b>	Nellie Coats collection
<b>Date</b>	1859-1973
<b>Extent</b>	0.03 Cubic feet 5 folders
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Text [Folder]</b>	S269-2
<b>Text [Folder]</b>	S269-3
<b>Text [Folder]</b>	S269-4
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### Preferred Citation

Nellie M. Coats collection, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library

## Biographical Note/Historical Note/Administrative History

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Nellie M. Coats was chief of the Catalogue Division of the Indiana State Library for 35 years, retiring in 1958. She was also a producer of a weekly radio show for which she interviewed various people. As a resident of Woodruff Place, she worked to compile and preserve the history of that unique area of Indianapolis. She was active in many societies and civic organizations. She researched and gave tours of historic Indianapolis. Only five feet tall, Nellie said she wished she was taller so she could reach the books on the top library shelves. She was 88 years old when she died on January 11, 1977. She was buried in Pretty Prairie Cemetery at Battle Ground, Indiana, which was her birthplace.

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## Scope and Contents

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The first folder has family papers, one of which is a letter Nellie wrote to her folks on June 20, 1916, in which she said: "I was out at Nina's last night to see how she was getting along. Poor girl! She is all broken up by this war scare." Nina's finance Harris was an officer in the Purdue Battery B and would go to Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis. Several letters were written during World War II. Most of the materials deal with Nellie's civic work, tours, and radio interviews.

Folder two has the letters from Grant Robbins which he wrote while serving in the 14th Air Force stationed in China and India. Folder three has letters from James Milhon who was also in China and India, in 1945 and 1946. This file contains a 24-page, well-written narrative of his time in those countries, which he typed after returning home to Battle Creek, Michigan. Folder four has letters from Joseph Peterman, stationed in Germany in 1969 and 1970. The last folder has information about Woodruff Place, where Nellie lived.

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## Arrangement

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This collection is arranged by subject.

## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Rare Books and Manuscripts

### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

### Conditions Governing Use

Legal title, copyright, and literary rights reside with Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, IN. All requests to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted to Rare Books and Manuscripts.

### Custodial History

This collection was received by Rare Books and Manuscripts as a donation from Nellie M. Coats in 1961, 1967, and 1970.

### Accruals

No further additions are expected.

### Processing Information

Collection processing and finding aid completed 2014/07/03 by Nikki Stoddard Schofield.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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### Geographic Name(s)

- Battle Creek (Mich.)
- China
- Germany
- India

- Woodruff Place (Indianapolis, Ind.)

**Personal Name(s)**

- Milhon, James
- Peterman, Joseph
- Robbins, Grant

**Subject(s)**

- Civic improvement
- Correspondence